

ALEXANDER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

October 2022 Newsletter



Ms. Dani Morrow, Principal
Ms. Kelly Girvan, Vice Principal
Ms. Sharon Elliot, Head Secretary

We gratefully acknowledge that we are learning together on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish People

A BIG “WELCOME BACK”

‘Uy’ Skweyul! We love summer, but we missed our Wolf PACK friends! Apologies for not getting this newsletter out to you in September; it was a whirlwind month with lots of changes happening. I think we are finally settled in now. Phew! It was a great start-up; we have a wonderful school community here in the Alexander Wolf PACK and we are so grateful for each of you! Huy ch q’u!

ALEXANDER’S SYMBOL OF SCHOOL COMMUNITY

For many years, we have embraced the symbolism of the stqeeye’ (wolf) to represent our school community. The stqeeye’ shows strength in the family, and the kinship associated with it is known to have strength and loyalty in *all* relationships. This is what we believe about our school community at Alexander. And, like a wolf pack, Alexander learners are POSITIVE, ACCCEPTING, COOPERATIVE, and KIND. We are looking forward to a full and fun year in the Wolf PACK!!

COVID-19 UPDATES

We are grateful to work in such an inclusive space, where everyone is so respectful of each other’s comfort levels. COVID has taught us some valuable lessons regarding cleaning and distancing that we will continue to take into these days that have less formal restrictions:

- We are a mask-friendly school! If you want to wear a mask, great! If not, that’s okay too! Many staff and students wore masks last year and we encourage all members of the Wolf PACK to do whatever makes them feel the safest.
- While we will be returning to one lunch break for all students (we had 2 lunch breaks for the past 2 years), we will continue to remind students to be mindful of giving others the space they need and want to feel safe
- Students will continue to be reminded and encouraged to wash their hands frequently
- We will continue to ask families to use the “entry” and “exit” ways after school
- All students and all staff will complete a Daily Health Check before entering the building. If you are sick, please stay home.



WATER ONLY

After FIVE amazing and successful years of celebrating “Water Only,” we want to carry forward to healthy initiative! Please save juice boxes, energy drinks, and soda pops for at home ☺

We will provide all students with a water bottle again this year. We have chosen Green for this year’s water bottles to help remind us of the wonderful healing powers of Mother Nature.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES – REDUCED PRICE!!

We have great news! We are again able to secure the low price of just \$20 per student for our School Supply Service! For only \$20, we will make sure your student is supplied with EVERYTHING they need for the entire year! You don’t have to set foot into a School Supply store; we will do all the work for you! And, we even offer a payment plan! If you are unable to pay \$20 right now, we are happy to collect smaller installations throughout the year.

STAFFING

I would like to officially “introduce” you to some of our newest staff members:

1. Ms. Clayton and Mr. Biello are our new Resource teachers; Ms. Maslan is our Learning Assistance teacher; Ms. Johansen is a new Grade 1/2 teacher, and Ms. Mallawaratchi is our new Grade 4/5 teacher.
2. Angel Holmquist has joined our team as our Grade 7 Ts’uwtun
3. Alicia Fraser and Shandi Evans have joined our team of EAs

We have some returning staff who will be in new and different roles, but they are the same faces you’ve seen around the Wolf PACK for the last few years.

PERSONAL TECH DEVICES AT SCHOOL

A friendly reminder to all of our families – If you send your son/daughter to school with a cell phone or other device, please encourage them to keep that device turned off, and in their bag or in their pocket. While we would prefer that the devices don’t come to school at all; you can always phone the office if you need to get a message to your kid(s)! We always remind students to put their devices away, sometimes they bring them out to show or share with their friends at lunch time. This can cause some unexpected accidents, which can cause some sad kids. Please help us remind the kids to keep devices safe and not to share them with others.

INDIGENOUS ANCESTRY *(A message from Charlie Coleman, Principal of Indigenous Education)*

'Uy'skweyul! Tansi! Welcome to a fantastic year of growth and learning. Indigenous education staff work throughout the district to foster inclusive classrooms where every student feels a sense of belonging and experiences academic success. If your child has Indigenous ancestry - First Nations, Métis or Inuit, (documentation is NOT required) and you would like to self-identify, please see the school secretary for a self-identification form. Each year your child will be funded for and included in Indigenous Education programs. Almost all programs will be delivered in the regular classroom, to ALL students. You will be asked to give permission for any activities offered outside of the regular class. If you have self-identified with the school in previous years, you do NOT need to do a new form each year. You can opt out of Indigenous Education services at any time by notifying the Indigenous Education staff in person or in writing either at your school or through the district office 250 748 0321 ext 235, or email at ined@sd79.bc.ca. As you may know, in 2017, the Federal Government changed from using the term Aboriginal people to using Indigenous Peoples when referring to First Nations, Métis & Inuit peoples. This change acknowledges the rights of Indigenous Peoples as outlined in [the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#). It will take us some time to transition to the new language so you may see the terms Indigenous and Aboriginal both used. We are looking forward to a positive school year together!

EQUITY SCANS *(Another message from Charlie Coleman, Principal of Indigenous Education)*

As part of the Ministry of Education and Childcare **Equity In Action** project, our school district will be doing a series of **Equity Scan Surveys** between September 19th and October 19th. Your responses to the surveys will provide insight on how **both** Indigenous and Non-Indigenous students learn about Indigenous history, culture, language and Truth & Reconciliation. Your survey responses will also help the school district to better understand how students and families experience education in our schools and school district. Watch for more details coming soon.

A FEW REMINDERS FROM THE DISTRICT

- Please be aware that there is BC Provincial Government legislation that bans all smoking on any school property, include inside of all vehicles on the property, at all times.
- In accordance with the Schools Protection Program, students and parents are reminded that students' personal property is not covered under the program, so students should not leave personal belongings at the school. Neither the school, nor the School District, are responsible for the loss or damage to students' personal property.
- If any parents require for any medications for their child to be administered by the school, please visit the office to fill out a "Request for Administration of Medication at School" Form.
- Please review these important Policies/Procedures. If you would like a paper copy, one can be provided for you, from the school's main office:
 - Admin Procedure 2550 – Healthy Schools
<https://bc79.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/38544?preview=40596>
 - Policy 5100 - District Code of Conduct
<https://bc79.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/566?preview=37501>
 - Policy 5110 - Intimidation, Harassment, Aggression
<https://bc79.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/566?preview=37502>
 - Appeals Procedure Bylaw No. 2
<https://bc79.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/561?preview=20246>

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Monday, October 10 - NO SCHOOL (Thanksgiving)

Friday, October 21 - NO SCHOOL (Pro D Day)

Wednesday, October 26 - 2 Hour Early Dismissal



FOLLOW US ON



FACEBOOK!

We continue to work hard to keep our School Facebook Page up to date. We are posting at least once per day, and sharing things like notices for field trips, weekly updates, amazing photos of our students' art, and of course some important reminders. Please consider following our page at: fb.me/alexanderelementaryschool